

Some Targets for the LAAS Public Star Party on Saturday, March 16, 2013
Sunset at 7:02 p.m. PDT (note that daylight time began on March 10)
At 7:30 p.m. PDT the Sidereal Time (Right Ascension at the Meridian) is 7 hours 16.30 minutes

SHOWCASE OBJECTS

The Moon 4 days old (1st Quarter on March 19); in Taurus (near the Pleiades, Hyades and Jupiter)

Prominent craters near the terminator: Hercules & Atlas in the North

Fracastorius (horseshoe-shaped flooded crater) and Piccolomini (with a prominent central peak) in the South

Jupiter and its Galilean Moons

About halfway up in the Western sky

Callisto and Io in the East, Europa and Ganymede in the West

Orion Nebula (M42) and the Trapezium

Comet PanSTARRS (?) About 10 $\frac{2}{3}$ ° above the Western horizon 30 minutes after sunset

MULTIPLE STARS

(SAO Numbers are included for use by computerized go-to mounts)

Prominent white doubles:

Castor (in Gemini; SAO # 060198; 07:34.6 +31:53)

Mizar (in Ursa Major; SAO # 028737; 13:23.9 +54: 56)

k Puppis (in Puppis; SAO # 174198; 07:38.8 -26:48)

Iota Orionis (magnitude differential challenge; in Orion; SAO # 132323; 05:35.4 -05:55)

Prominent doubles of various colors:

145 Canis Majoris (orange & blue; in Canis Major; h3945; SAO # 173349; 07:16.6 -23:19)

Algieba (Gamma Leonis; gold & gold; in Leo; SAO # 081298; 10:20.0 +19:50)

Iota Cancri (gold & blue; in Cancer; SAO # 080416; 08:46.7 +28:46)

Triple stars:

Sigma Orionis (easy; in Orion; SAO # 132406; 05:38.7 -02:36)

Beta Monocerotis (challenging; in Monoceros; SAO # 133317; 06:28.8 -07:02)

PROMINENT OPEN CLUSTERS

For binoculars or rich field telescopes:

M45 (the Pleiades, in Taurus); M44 (the Beehive, in Cancer)

Can fit within the fields of view of medium to long focal length eyepieces:

M35 (in Gemini), M36 and M38 (in Auriga), M41 (in Canis Major), M47 (in Puppis), M48 (in Hydra),

M50 (in Monoceros), M93 (in Puppis), NGC 2362 (in Canis Major; the Tau Canis Majoris cluster),

NGC 2244 (in Monoceros; surrounded by the Rosette Nebula).

PROMINENT GLOBULAR CLUSTERS

M68 (in Hydra), M79 (in Lepus)

GALAXIES THAT MIGHT BE VISIBLE IN URBAN SKIES

M81 and M82 (in Ursa Major), NGC 2403 (in Camelopardalis)

DEEP RED CARBON STARS

(SAO Numbers are included for use by computerized go-to mounts)

R Leporis (in Lepus; Hind's Crimson Star; SAO # 150058; 04:59.8 -14:48)

Compiled by Herbert Kraus